



Memo

To: Park Board
From: Park and Recreation Staff
Date: September 10, 2013
Subject: Monthly Update

Following are department highlights for August and early September for your review.

1. Director's report from Ben Wagner:

a. *Personnel* –

- If you have not already heard, Katia Hatter, our Marketing Coordinator, has decided to take a new job opportunity and will be leaving us this month. Please join me in thanking her for her years of service to Parks and Recreation and our Community. She has been a great asset to our department and has done a great job of spreading the word about all of the wonderful happenings in Parks and Rec!
- In other news...Verna Morrison, Park Operations Secretary, has announced that she will be retiring. She has worked for Parks and Recreation for 18 years and will truly be missed. She has done a fantastic job organizing and managing the multitude of details involved in the daily work of Park Operations maintaining 25 properties and 1,000 acres of land. Enjoy your retirement Verna!
- Commons Manager interviews are going well. We had over 60 applications and have narrowed the field down to 5 second round interviews. It is a very important and difficult decision-making process considering the position and the high number of qualified applicants. We have asked a Commons Board member to join us for 2nd round interviews.

- b. *Capital Projects* - Hats off to our hard working staff for the completion of a number of important capital projects in Parks and Recreation the last two years. Projects currently in process include: Hamilton Center restrooms and roof, Donner Center roof, overlay and striping at Mill Race, Noblitt, and several parking lots and Blackwell/Wigh restrooms.
- c. *Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)* - Thanks to Casey Ritz for assembling an action team with representation from the City and County. Casey and his staff have a plan prepared for Parks properties and the next step is to use that as a springboard for development of plans for the entire City/County. An important part of this plan will include communication to community leaders and a media strategy to educate the public and answer FAQ's.
- d. *Budget* - The first reading of the City Budget will be at the City Council meeting, September 17, 6:00pm, City Council chambers.

2. Kathy McPeck reported the following for Recreation/Events and Administration:

Fun and Fit at Columbus Gymnastic Center:

- a. We hosted 15 birthday parties for the month of August (all available times were reserved!). Sunday party reservations resumed on Aug. 18. As of 9/4/13 we have 16 parties reserved for Sept and folks are still calling!
- b. Open gym attendance was down a bit as we were closed 2 weekends in August (one for facility maintenance and for the Labor Day weekend). The Open Gym numbers for August were:
- Pre-school (including MOMS Club & MOPS program): 510

- Ages 7-up: 22
- Family open gym sessions on Thursdays & Saturdays: 116
- c. Foundation for Youth hosted another Teen Night on Aug. 10th. 50 teens visited the Gymnastics Center as part of the activities.
- d. Participants from the Boys & Girls' Club overnight program visited on Aug. 23. A total of 41 children participated.
- e. We will resume our once a month Friday evening Family Open Gyms on Sept. 27 from 6:30-8pm. Cost is \$3 per child and parent participation/supervision in the gymnastics activity space is required.
- f. I am mentoring one of my instructional staff (Michaela Morris) for her senior project for Columbus North. She is planning a cheer camp for the first week of Fall Break, Oct. 7-10. She will be reserving some spots for members of the Boys & Girls' Club. Non-members will pay a small fee of \$10 or \$15 (still to be determined) and those proceeds will be donated to the Park Foundation for gymnastics scholarships.
- g. The Gymnastics Center, again this year, was a part of the FFY Triathlon on Aug. 10th. 3 staff members took a variety of equipment out and set up an obstacle course for the children to play on.
- h. Several gymnastics instructional staff members will be attending a school-age hands-on training course at the InterActive Academy in Zionsville on Sept. 29th. This will be very beneficial for the staff to learn new teaching ideas, spotting techniques and warm-up ideas.

Recreation - Events:

- a. August was a very busy month with the following events:
 - Over 200 participated in the 2nd annual "Glow in the Park" 5K run/walk to benefit Teen Council on Aug. 2 at Mill Race Park. Even though it was late, the crowd was great! All participants received a t-shirt and the best "glowing" costumes were given prizes as well! This will be an annual event.
 - The Donner Variety Show was held on Saturday, Aug. 10 from 7-9pm. The show was well attended and had great weather!
 - Rock the Park was held at Mill Race Park on Saturday, Aug. 17. It was a very busy set-up day and event night with a sell-out crowd of 7,000 in attendance!
 - The annual Hospice Concert was unfortunately rained out on Saturday, Aug. 31. Everything was set up and ready to go when a storm with lightning and thunder rolled in almost exactly at 6:30pm when the event was to begin. It was not a safe situation for audience members or performers to try and have the actual performances begin. We hope to have better luck next year.
- b. Sept. will be a busy month as well with the following:
 - A wedding was held on Sunday, Sept. 1 at the arbor at Mill Race.
 - Sneakers at Starlight, benefitting Hamilton Center through the Park Foundation, was held at the Round Lake at Mill Race on Friday, Sept. 6 from 6:30-10:30pm.
 - A wedding was held on the hill in the north end of Mill Race Park (west of Mill Race Center) on Saturday, Sept. 7.
 - The next Columbus Bluegrass Jamboree Concert will be held on Saturday, Sept. 14 at Mill Race Park. Rain location is Donner Center. The event begins at 4pm with an open jam session (bring your instrument). Group performances begin at 5pm. Admission is free, donations will be taken and concessions will be served. Folks are encouraged to bring lawn chairs.
 - The 5th annual Mill Race Rummage Sale will be held on Saturday, Sept. 21 from 9am-2pm at Mill Race Park. Booth space is \$15 and folks can rent tables for \$5 each or bring their own. Proceeds from booth and table rentals will go to the Park Foundation for future free and low cost children's and family programming through parks and rec.
 - Friday, Sept. 27th, the Kids Fun Run portion of the Mill Race Marathon weekend will be held at Mill Race Park beginning at 5pm. They are expecting over 700 local elementary students to participate. The Fun Run is free.

- Saturday, Sept. 28th will be a busy day with the Mill Race Marathon going through Mill Race in the morning and then the drive-in movie event that evening!
 - The final Donner Variety Show for the 2013 season will be held on September 28th at Donner Park Shelter from 7-9pm. FREE.
- c. October events include:
- Croboterfest - scrapbooking event is set for Oct. 5th at Donner Center.
 - A wedding is scheduled at Mill Race Park Round Lake on Saturday, Oct 5.
 - Ethnic Expo parade staging will take place on Sat., Oct. 12 at Mill Race Park. Also on Oct. 12th, the annual Kiwanis Duck Splash event will be held at Mill Race Park Round Lake. It will include a free magic show by Travis Easterling, a bounce house and concessions will be available!
- d. Annual Costume Contest will be held on Sunday, Oct. 27th at Donner Center for children up to age 12. The event is FREE.

Programs:

- a. Planning is underway for Fall Break programs (which will be here before we know it!) The following are planned:
- Magic Camp with Travis Easterling, Oct 7-9 at Donner Center for ages 8-12.
 - Knit Camp for Kids is set for Oct. 15-18 with Cathi Jones (former owner of Cottage Knits) at Donner Center for ages 8-12.
 - Little Chefs - Ghost & Goblin Goodies will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 15 from 1:00-2:15pm at Donner Center.
 - Trick or Treat Tales, a family Halloween event is scheduled for Friday, Oct 18 from 6:30-8pm at Donner Center.
 - The "Active Artists!" program will begin again at the Gymnastics Center on Thursday, Oct. 3 during the Family Open Gym session from 12:30-1:30pm. Crafts are free and open gym admission is \$3 per child. Parent participation is required for crafts and open gym. Halloween crafts and treats will be featured!

3. Mark Jones reported the following for the Sports and Athletic Facility Team:

Programs/Tournaments:

- a. Youth fall soccer has started.
- b. Adult fall soccer has started.
- c. Adult fall kickball has started.
- d. Adult fall volleyball league registration has ended.
- e. CSA's fall softball league started September 3.
- f. Tournaments:
 - USSSA Slowpitch – 35 Teams
 - USSSA Slowpitch – 25 Teams
 - CSA All-Star – 10 Teams
- g. Prep work continues on the 2014 tournament schedule.
- h. BCSC soccer practices/games continue.
- i. Express soccer practices/games continue.
- j. Carleen Fry is doing an outstanding job with Hamilton Center and is bringing in new revenue.
- k. Carleen Fry is working to secure future tournaments/competitions.
 - IU vs Louisville Hockey Game is schedule for September 21 (7:00pm-10:00pm)

Athletic Facilities:

- a. Projects:
- Hamilton Center Restroom – should be completed by the end of September.
 - Hamilton Center Roof – work begins first week of September and should be completed in early December.
 - Hamilton Center Patio doors/windows – We are still waiting on supplies to come in to finish off the sliding doors.
 - Hamilton Center Dehumidification – has been completed and is working great.

- Dick Wigh Soccer Complex Restroom – Work will begin in mid-October.
- b. Fall/winter prep work continues on all outdoor facilities.
- c. Athletic Facilities team is doing a great job keeping the turf up to par in this dry spell we are going through. It's been hard with all the play and lack of moisture but the facilities look great.
- d. BCSC work continues on their outdoor athletic facilities.
- e. Athletic Facilities team continues to do an outstanding job with Hamilton Center.

Hamilton Center:

- a. Hamilton Center has started the fall session one skating programs, as well as the Intro to Hockey classes. This session of Fall 1 classes is the largest we have had in recent years with over 100 participants.
- b. We are currently gearing up to begin our CYH Hockey season and our LCSC skating season, (which has already begun) by putting together our calendar schedule. We are also getting things put in order, so that we may begin taking registrations for House League Hockey.
- c. Our Adult Hockey seems to be picking up, with two leagues and a Friday night drop-in.
- d. Bloomington continues to utilize more and more of our ice time, as well as the IU D1 and D3 college teams.
- e. Broomball has ended its mini-season and will start their fall season off with a Broomball tournament on October 12th.
- f. We had one of our annual rentals this month. McCabe Orthodontics held their 4th annual patient skate, with over 200 skaters.
- g. We are planning to have our fourth annual "Ice Extravaganza" on the 28th of September, with demonstrations and mini lessons. The demonstrations will include speed skating, figure skating, hockey, broomball and plain old recreational skating basics, with a special presentation of Alice in Wonderland with our first ever Theatre on Ice group. We are hoping this will generate a higher enrollment for the Theatre on Ice class for our next session.

4. Casey Ritz reported for Park Operations:

- a. *The Maintenance Crew* has been busy with events this month including Rock the Park and the Hospice Concert. They have also been working on other electrical and plumbing repairs in the parks. They have been fulfilling work orders and looking ahead to the fall season. The fall season gives us a chance to accomplish work before the cold temperatures of winter.
- b. *The Cleaning Crew* is still handling a lot of trash. Shelter usage and tournament play is still going strong. Restrooms are being cleaned frequently due to use and because of a small increase in vandalism.
- c. *The Grounds Crew* is working hard with the demands of the dry spell we are in. They have been doing a lot of watering. The mowing crew has been slowed from their regular mowing. They have done some bush hogging and helping others with detailing the parks. The crew has also been working on the green roof at The Commons. The crew at the City Cemetery has had some time to work on repairing some stones along with working on the landscape at FFY. Thanks guys.
- d. *The Donner Center Crew* has been working on closing the pool. After the closure of the pool, they were able to finish the basement repairs. They have also had several set ups and tear downs this past month.
- e. *FFY Crew* has had a setback this past month. Gary Smith has been out for medical reasons. We hope to have Gary back soon. The staff has done a great job in his absence.
- f. *The Commons Staff* had 13 full closures and 3 lower lobby closures. The meeting spaces have been used over 40 times this month. They have also had some overflow from other downtown events. The bollards and performance shades are being installed.

5. Jim Lemke reported for Aquatics:
 - a. Donner Aquatic Center season wrapped up August 18th this year. Due to thunderstorms and unseasonably cool temps in June and July our Public Session numbers were down a little but all other programs were about the same as the past or even slightly better.
 - b. DAC had 29,257 attend public sessions this year. 10, 917 took advantage of our Free Swim which is offered the last hour of normal public sessions.
 - c. Our Swim Lesson program had 1,003 register this year. That is over 100 more than last year. DAC instructors also taught 385 Private Lessons this year.
 - d. Private Rentals (Pool Rental or Birthday Tent Rental) - We had 14 during the season.
 - e. DAC also offered 3 different weekend SCUBA classes. I am working with Southern Indiana SCUBA to get the final number of students who participated in those sessions.
 - f. Partnering with FFY and REACH, we put on two youth triathlons this year and between the two events we had a little over 120 participants.
 - g. Donner Guards and CFD participated in 2 aquatic emergency training exercises this year.
 - h. We wrapped up the season with the 9th annual Dog Swim. 145 dogs attended this year.
6. April Williams report for Resource Development follows on the next page:
 - c: Mayor Kristen Brown
Councilman Dascal Bunch
Jeff Logston
Parks & Recreation FT Employees

**Project/Resource Development Update
September 10, 2013**

Current projects:

Park & Park Facilities

Continued to work with a Planning Committee to coordinate the 2nd Annual Sneakers at Starlight Event on September 6th at Mill Race Park which was held around the illuminated Round Lake from 6:30 – 10:30 pm.

Thanks to those of you who were able to attend. Your attendance is a great example of your support for the Columbus Park Foundation/Parks & Recreation's efforts in providing and improving quality of life amenities for Columbus' residents.

Additional projects:

- Continue working with the Hamilton Center Project Campaign Committee. 50% of the fundraising goal has been raised, to date.
- Meet regularly with Casey Ritz to discuss priority Capital projects for Parks & Rec.
- Continue to attend the Arts District Coalition Team Meeting as a committee member of the Urban Infrastructure Team and the Program Planning Team.
- Planning for Parks & Recreation to host the Indiana Parks and Recreation Association workshop on October 22nd. The workshop topic will be *Creating Community Coalition to build a "Trail Network"*.
- Continue to meet with invested parties interested in furthering Race2Play.
- Met with invested parties in the Skate Park to discuss future plans for renovations.
- Met with invested party in People Trails to provide update.
- Met with Dave Crompton, Cummins leader of the Mill Race Marathon, to thank for this year's proceeds designated to Park Foundation. Discussed plan moving forward and requested earmarking future proceeds for People Trails. Mr. Crompton was in favor and will be discussing with the planning committee.
- Met with Tipton Lakes Association Manager to discuss future upgrades to Oakbrook and Harrison Ridge Park.
- Interviewing of Americorp members to assist with volunteer coordination of "Adopt A Trail Program" and "Race2Play Volunteer Program".
- Planning set up to attend Cummins Green Commute Day
- Planning set up to attend Cummins Community Involvement Fair
- Planning Annual Campaign and Retreat for Park Foundation

Thank you for your service!

April Williams